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MEDIA RELEASE

Got a book inside you? Get it published this year.

With success stories like 1001 Ways to Be Romantic, Sugar Busters!, and the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, nonfiction book writing is truly one area in America today where common, ordinary, everyday people have the opportunity to make a considerable amount of money with nothing more to start than a great idea, normal intelligence, and determination.

According to editor and publisher Stephen Blake Mettee, “If you have the desire, the tenacity, and a modicum of writing skills, you too can join the ranks of published nonfiction book authors. Some 45,000 new nonfiction books, many from first-time authors, hit the book shelves each year. Books on nearly every subject. This year the publishers are going to need 45,000 more books—one of these might as well be yours.”

And it can be profitable too. Many books go on to produce sales year after year, sometimes for decades. This means an author may be collecting royalties for books he wrote years ago while writing more books, which in turn earn more royalties for years to come. Whew! Sound too good to be true? Well, wait, it gets better.

Most nonfiction books—even those by first-time authors—are sold to a publisher before they are written. This is done via a book proposal. A book proposal is a 10- to 50-page document that outlines for an editor what the book will be about and who will buy it. If no sale to a publisher is made, no book is written. The author is free to write another book proposal and try again. No harm, no foul.

So how do you write a book proposal? Well, that’s where Mettee’s new, succinct guide The Fast-Track Course on How to Write a Nonfiction Book Proposal comes in. In it Mettee outlines exactly what a novice author needs to do to hear an editor say “Yes!”

According to Mettee, the first rule is: Do no harm. Too many authors don’t pay enough attention to the small things like spelling, fact-checking, and a business-like manuscript format that are needed to make their book proposals appear professional. They may have a great idea for a book—and be eminently qualified to write it—but they schmuck it up with slovenly disregard for the easy stuff.

The last rule is: Be persistent. If you quit after your first rejection slip or after the thirteenth or the thirtieth, you’ll never get published. Many books that are rejected scores of times go on to be best-sellers. You’re not defeated until you give up.

Now, for the rest of what you’ll need to know, you’ll have to read the book.

The Fast-Track Course on How to Write a Nonfiction Book Proposal by Stephen Blake Mettee (Quill Driver Books, \$12.95) is available with this year’s other 44,999 new nonfiction books at brick and mortar and online bookstores or by calling the publisher at 1-800-497-4909.

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